## A New Look at an Established Neighborhood

arlier this year, in a fair-like atmosphere complete with popcorn and balloons for the kids, residents of the **Grass Lawn** neighborhood met with elected officials and city service providers to kick off an update of their neighborhood plan. While kids of all ages and sizes had a great time exploring the fire engine, police cars, and other public works vehicles that had been transported to Rose Hill Junior High that evening, the adults chatted

with and asked questions of firefighters, police officers, public works employees, and other city officials. Specific concerns about city services were recorded on service request cards that addressed issues like street and storm drainage maintenance, code

enforcement, and traffic calming. Staff is responding to the requests and following up with individual residents.

As the fair concluded, most of the citizens attending remained to participate in the workshop that would launch the planning process for their neighborhood.

The participants met in small groups to discuss what they liked and what they wanted to improve in their neighborhood. They also discussed the character of Grasslawn and what they wanted to keep into the future.

Participants were then asked what they considered to be the top needs for their overall neighborhood. Their highest priorities were:

- More interaction between neighbors (e.g. neighborhood block watch groups, work parties to improve common areas, etc.)
- Better pedestrian connections (e.g. sidewalks, trails, bicycle lanes, etc.)

 Better traffic management (less cut through traffic, reduce speeds, increase pedestrian safety, etc.)

They also said:

- Keep it essentially the same in the future don't do anything
- More small public open spaces
- Better lighting

Since Grass Lawn is a mature neighborhood with little vacant land, it is not a likely candidate for dramatic land use change. But like any

> neighborhood, it will probably experience some degree of change over time.

> > In April,

the Mayor and City Council appointed a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to work with City staff as the process continues regarding recommendations for updating the Grass Lawn neighborhood plan. CAC members are residents Jack Bittner, Jim Broglio, Walt Cothran, Khai Do, Mike Evans, Arlene Fineman, Glenna Johnson, Anna-Carol Martin, Gopalan Ramanujam, and Marina Robinson. The group expects to work through the summer and recommend plan updates to the Planning Commission in August. Plan adoption by the City Council is targeted for November.

Public meeting times and locations will be posted on the City's web site at www.ci.redmond.wa.us. For more information, contact Susie Goett at 425-556-2454 or sgoett@ci.redmond.wa.us.

